The report concludes that these is a strong co-relation between the accessibility of modern media and the predominant values and orientations. It also concluded that children's aggressive behaviour patterns and perceptions are a mirror of what they experience in their real environment. The report has noted with concern the worldwide adverse impact of violence in TV programmes on children's psyche and personality. The report has recommended that centralized control and censorship are not efficient and do not meet the criteria of democratic societies. It has suggested—

— public debate and common ground talks between politicians, producers and teachers;

— development of a professional code of conduct and self-discipline for producers;

— innovative form of media education to create competent and critical media users.

The UNESCO's study report has indicated that producers do not avoid violence because such programmes are viewed widely and advertisers, even of healthy products or children's products, readily sponsor such programmes or make advertisements to benefit from large viewerships.

Regulatory framework for broadcasting in India so far is weak because there is no broadcasting law for setting up regulatory system so far. The TV programmes are not subject to jurisdiction of Film Censor Board also. However, the situation is not totally unregulated. Advertising on Doordarshan is regulated by its code for Commercial Advertising. The private satellite channels uplinked from India are required to follow the same code under conditions of government permission. Under the Cable TV Network rules, encrypted satellite channels uplinked from outside India are subject to advertisement code specified under this Act. Rule 7 prohibits advertisements which endanger safety of children or create interest in unhealthy practices. Under Section 18 of the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, officers designated by the State Government can take cognizance of violations of advertisement code.

Harassment and Apathy Towards Widows

†2536. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether there are 3 crore 33 lakh widows in the country as per census of 1991, which forms 8 per cent of total female population;

(b) whether Government have made any arrangement to ensure that widows do not fall prey to the harassment and apathy;

(c) if so, what measures have been taken to ensure that the widows do not suffer social disparity and a deprived life; and

(d) whether a separate bill is proposed to be brought forward for the widows?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c) According to the information furnished by the Department of Women and Child Development in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, who are concerned with this subject matter, they have set up a Committee under the chairpersonship of Minister of State for Women and Child Development to co-ordinate the efforts of Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal Government and Central Government organizations for rehabilitation of the widows of Vrindavan and to monitor flow of benefits of Central Schemes to the target group. The committee is also required to make suggestions for amendment to the existing laws or for enactment of new laws if so warranted for protection of property rights of marginalized women. Besides, there are various Central Government Schemes for self employment for women such as Setting up of Employment-cum-Income Generating Units for Women (NORAD), Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP), Indira Mahila Yojana (IMY), Socio-Economic Programme (SEP), Condensed Courses of Educational and Vocational Training for Women (CCE&VT) under which preference is given to such marginalized women in the matter of providing assistance. The Rashtriya Mahila Kosh is also implementing programmes, with special focus on marginalized women, under which financial assistance is provided for implementing self employment programmes through Non-Governmental Organizations. Other schemes such as National Old Age Pension scheme and the Social Defence Schemes provide for pension and rehabilitation of such aged and marginalized women.

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has released grant-in-aid of Rs. 5.82 lakhs during 1998-99 to Guild of Service, a voluntary organization working for women in need and implementing a project for the rehabilitation of widows of Vrindavan by providing them shelter, food, means of living, vocational training etc. Another grant of Rs. 14.04 lakhs has been sanctioned during the current financial year (1999-2000), 50% of which amounting to Rs. 7.02 lakhs has been released in October, 1999.

(d) No, Sir.

Central Assistance to Orphanages

2537. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of orphanages receiving financial assistance from the Government in the Country at present, State-wise;

(b) the criteria fixed for giving financial assistance to them; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure proper utilization of the amount allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) The Government of India is not having any scheme to give financial assistance to orphanages.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Assistance to Craftsmen through NBCFDC in U. P.

†2538. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government extend assistance to the States for the benefit of craftsmen through National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation; and

(b) if so, the amount received by Uttar Pradesh under this head during the last three years and the target fixed for the next year, alongwith the number of people to be benefitted thereby during the said period?

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†Original Notice of the question was recived in Hindi.